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**Testimony of Kimberly A. Knox  
President, CT Bar Association**

**IN SUPPORT of**

**Governors Bill 31, An Act Concerning Continued Delivery of Legal Services to the Poor**

**Judiciary Committee  
March 10, 2014**

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Kimberly Knox. I am here this afternoon to **SUPPORT** Governors Bill 31, "An Act Concerning Continued Delivery of Legal Services to the Poor."

I have been an attorney for over 25 years and am a partner in the law firm of Horton Shields and Knox based here in Hartford. I am officially here in my capacity as the president of the CT Bar Association. The CT Bar Association was fully supportive of this bill in 2012 and we continue to support today's bill before you.

I will not go into detail on this bill. You will have a number of people today telling you how this bill will have personally affected them and members of their families. You will have attorneys from legal aid tell you how it will affect legal aid services.

The issue was brought by the Pro Bono Committee to the CBA Board of Governors. The CBA's Pro Bono Committee consists of nonprofit providers of low and modest means legal services, private practitioners and legal service providers. CBA Board of Governors immediately supported this legislation that would eliminate the sunset provision so that legal services could make plans for next year and beyond. We are also delighted with the suggestion to change the funding to 95/5.

It is necessary at this time to continue the quality legal services to those who are powerless, abandoned and helpless in our state. Legal Aid Services accepts those challenges in our courts to represent the ever increasing number of unrepresented testing the capacity of our court system. Reductions to these legal services would delay access to justice to those most in need.

We urge you to support the Governor's bill. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer.

*The Connecticut Bar Association is a professional association committed to the advancement of justice, the practice of law, the image of the profession, and public understanding of the law.*